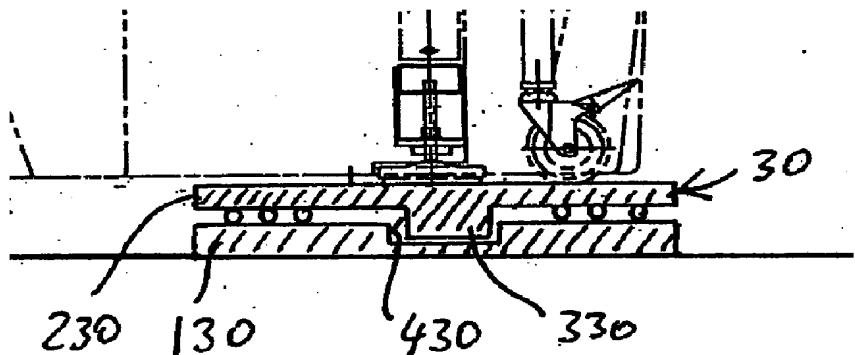


## REMARKS

The Office Action of September 17, 2009, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 1, 6-19, 21-24, 27 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Carrozzi et al. (EP 1 004 269) in view of DeMeester et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,081). Claims 2-4, 20, 25-26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Carrozzi et al. in view of DeMeester et al. as applied above, and in further view of Tazaki (JP 11028199).

Claim 1 recites with great specificity, *inter alia*, that a platform has a base plate and an upper supporting plate, and that rotary and sliding guide means are provided such that the platform is rotatable, and that the upper support plate is slidable relative to the base plate. Referring to FIG. 6 of the present application, this structure is clearly shown. Platform 30 comprises base plate 130, upper support plate 230, and guide means 330, 430 disposed between plates 130 and 230. Hence, since the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is disposed on the platform, it is clear that the magnetic imaging apparatus is also displaced when the platform rotates. Applicants respectfully submit that this structural arrangement is not suggested by the cited prior art.



Figures 1-4 of Carrozzi are comparable to Figures 1-5 of the instant application, which **do not** include the rotatable platform as shown above in Figure 6. As described on page 3, lines 20-22 of the present application, the base block of the MRI apparatus may have wheels, rollers or other means for sliding relative a bearing surface, such as the floor or a support platform. As shown in Figures 4-5 of Carrozzi, the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging is disposed on stationary legs resting directly on a floor, as in Figures 1-5 of the instant application - - there simply is no platform in Carrozzi, that is, as recited in claim 1, a platform formed by a base plate and an upper plate supporting the base block of the MRI apparatus, with sliding means therebetween for rotating the MRI apparatus.

Regarding DeMeester, the secondary reference cited in the Official Action, the Examiner's assertion that "portions of the rotatable MR apparatus support constitute at least a platform that is disposed between the apparatus itself and the floor and also that exists a base plate and a supporting plate which supports the MRI apparatus" does not provide the teaching of the specific platform structure found to be missing in the primary reference. Accordingly, even combining the references as proposed by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of claim 1 is not rendered obvious.

Furthermore, DeMeester shows sliding means (rollers or wheels 56) beneath the magnet structure which are intended to be used in a manner such that "the main magnet 20 can be translated to a remote location away from the subject 44 being examined". This is completely different from the goal of the claimed invention, which is allowing "**relative motion** between the patient table and the magnet structure" in order to optimize the spaces in a narrow room.

In rejecting claims 2-4, 20, 25-26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 in further view of Tazaki (JP 11028199), the Examiner continues to rely upon Tazaki for a motivation for "the use of multiple rotatable and variably positionable tables." As previously explained regarding Figure 2, Tazaki discloses that one patient table 6 is moved to locations P1-P6. The Examiner further relies on the background of Tazaki for the use of multiple tables attached to an MR system at variable points around a center portion. In fact, what Tazaki refers to, is a configuration like that in US Patent No. 5,490,513, cited by Tazaki himself, wherein four patient tables are used in order to reduce the amount of time spent in imaging several patients. There is no rotation of the patient tables nor of the magnet itself. Hence, Tazaki fails to provide a suggestion for the simultaneous rotatable connection of two or more tables. Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art fails to suggest two or more tables that can be positioned relative to each other and to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, as recited in claims 2, 28 and 34, and that such would not be obvious.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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